U.S. Department
of Transportation

**Federal Aviation
Administration**

Office of the Administrator

800 Independence Ave., S.W.
Washington, D.C. 20591

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Dear Members of the Aviation Community:

I am pleased to present the enclosed *Blueprint for NAS Modernization, 2002 Update*, the Federal Aviation Administration's (FAA) overview of the evolving National Airspace System (NAS) Architecture. The NAS Architecture is the U.S. aviation community's comprehensive plan for improving the NAS over the next 15 years, and the 2002 Update summarizes current NAS programs and initiatives, as well as future plans to modernize the NAS. The NAS Architecture is developed in continuing collaboration with the aviation community. This collaboration helps ensure that we take rational, affordable, and feasible approaches to modernization that can be achieved without disruption of critical aviation services.

To expedite the transfer of detailed information to the aviation community, the FAA no longer produces a print version of the entire NAS Architecture. Instead, the FAA makes comprehensive architecture information available on a public Web site using the Capability Architecture Tool Suite - Internet (CATS-I) at http://www.nas-architecture.faa.gov/cats.

This CATS-I tool provides both Government and industry with not only the capability to maintain a long-term planning horizon, but also to make adjustments to the architecture when required: for example, when national security needs caused the FAA to reevaluate the allocation of funds and priorities to enhance aviation safety, security, and system efficiency. Valuable input from all stakeholders, when national priorities or economic forces shift, is key to sound, joint investment decisionmaking for NAS modernization.

Our citizens continue to demand safe, secure, and efficient air travel, and the FAA is committed to meeting these demands. The NAS Architecture is the blueprint for enhancing our aviation services while maintaining a sound infrastructure. On behalf of the FAA, thank you, the members of the aviation community, for working so diligently with us to modernize the NAS and define its evolution. I look forward to working with you on continuing this important mission.

Marion C. Blakey
FAA Administrator